

In the Claims:

1. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) adapted for use in a pressurised system which comprises a radial sealing ring provided with at least a pair of primary sealing lips (9 and 10) radially disposed on a first, circumferential, face (13) of the ring; a second, axial end, face (14) of the radial sealing ring being provided with means for dispersing pressurized fluid characterized in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is a labyrinth seal (15 or 16) located on the axial end face (14).
2. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid comprises means for dispersing pressure in a circumferential direction.
3. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 2 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid comprises means for dispersing pressure in a circumferential direction and a radial direction.
4. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the first circumferential face of the radial sealing ring is the inner face and a second circumferential face is the outer face.
5. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the radial sealing ring is adapted to be used in a system wherein the external pressure on the radial sealing ring is greater than the internal pressure.
6. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 5 characterised in that the primary sealing lips (9 and 10) are radially disposed from an outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring, whilst the means for dispersing pressurised fluid is provided on the axial end face of the radial sealing ring.

7. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that both axial end faces of the radial sealing ring are provided with a pressurized fluid dispersing means (15 and 16).

8. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 6 characterised in that the labyrinth seal (15 and 16) comprises a plurality of apertures.

9. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 6 characterised in that the labyrinth seal (15 and 16) comprises a plurality of holes.

10. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures are arranged in a regular pattern.

11. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 10 characterised in that the regular pattern is a 'brick-bond' pattern.

12. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is an integral part of the axial end face of the radial sealing ring.

13. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 11 characterised in that the apertures are in the regular pattern of two or three circumferential rows.

14. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 13 characterised in that the apertures are in the regular pattern of two circumferential rows.

15. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures are from 0.5mm to 2.0mm deep.

16. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 8 characterised in that the apertures are preferably substantially the same size and shape.

17. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the assembly is adapted to tolerate from 20 to 70 bar.

18. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the radial seal is provided with a containment ring (18).

19. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 18 characterised in that the containment ring (18) is on the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

20. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 20 characterised in that the containment ring (18) is on the first or inner circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

21. (original) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 20 characterised in that the containment ring (18) comprises a support ring (23) around the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

22. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 21 characterised in that the support ring (23) is preferentially a coiled spring.

23. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to Claim 1 characterised in that the sealing ring assembly is provided with a containment ring (18) around the second or outer circumferential face of the radial sealing ring.

24. (withdrawn) A radial sealing assembly unit (34) which comprises a pair of primary sealing lips (35, 36) and a pair of secondary sealing lips (44, 45), the primary pair radially disposed on a first or inner circumferential face, the secondary pair radially disposed on a second or outer circumferential face, of the radial sealing unit, the primary and secondary lips being connected by a containment ring.

25. (previously presented) A method of introducing a three way joint into a pipeline which comprises a hole in a pipe and attaching a second pipe over the hole wherein a radial sealing ring assembly (8), which comprises a radial sealing ring provided with at least a pair of primary sealing lips (9 and 10) radially disposed on a first, circumferential face (13) of the ring; a second, axial end face (14) of the radial sealing ring being provided with means for dispersing pressurized fluid characterized in that the means for dispersing the pressurized fluid is a labyrinth seal (15 or 16) located on the axial end face (14), lies between the two pipes.

26. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 25 characterised in that the method comprises using a plurality of the radial sealing rings (8).

27. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 26 characterised in that the method comprises using an outermost radial sealing ring which is provided with outer facing sealing lips and an innermost radial sealing ring which is provided with inner facing sealing lips.

28. (original) A method according to Claim 27 characterised in that the innermost and outermost radial sealing rings are separate.

29. (canceled).

30. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are arranged in a regular pattern.

31. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are from 0.5mm to 2.0mm deep.

32. (previously presented) A radial sealing ring assembly (8) according to claim 9 characterised in that the holes are preferably substantially the same size and shape.

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Applicant respectfully submits that this application is now in condition for allowance, which action is requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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